

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 /089 W

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R 231136Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 806

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 23

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SINN FEIN MEET AGAIN

REF: BELFAST 18

1. TWO OFFICIALS NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE MET WITH TWO MEMBERS PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN SOMEWHERE IN BELFAST AREA EVENING JAN. 22. FEAKLE TALK CLERGYMAN WILLIAM ARLOW IN ATTENDANCE BUT DID NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE. IMPLICATION IS AGLOW CONTINUING ACT AS MIDDLEMAN OBVIATING NECESSITY DIRECT TELEPHONIC OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SINN FEIN.

2. SECSTATE REES ISSUED STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING IN WHICH HE STRESSED TALKS HELD TO CLARIFY POINTS MADE HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT ANY CEASEFIRE DID NOT BREAKDOWN. THIS IMPLIED PROMISE ESTABLISH REGULAR SYSTEM COMMUNICATIONS WAS COUPLED WITH TOUGH CONDITION THAT THE HOLDING OF FURTHER TALKS DEPENDENT ON CESSATION VIOLENCE "AS LONG AS VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN THE WAY THAT IT HAS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THERE

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CAN BE NO POINT IN DETAILED DISCUSSION OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS".

3. IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES CONSISTENT STATEMENTS PART SECSTATE AND CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT GOVERNMENT INTENDS KEEP CEASEFIRE CONDITIONS SEPARATE FROM POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS COULD BE EXPECTED PLACATE OPPOSITION. NORTHERN IRELAND LOYALISTS HOWEVER SUSPECT WHAT THEY SEE AS ANY CONCESSION TO PROVISIONAL IRA OR SINN FEIN INCLUDING FACE TO FACE TALKS. EAST BELFAST VANGUARD UNIONISTS ISSUED CALL FOR REMOVAL SECSTATE REES NIGHT JAN. 22 AND CRITICIZED RELEASE DETAINEES. STATEMENT POINTED OUT ONE OF PROVISIONALS KILLED IN EXPLOSION CAR TRANSPORTING PROBABLY UNSTABLE EXPLOSIVES JAN. 21 WAS RELEASED AUGUST 1974 AFTER BEING DETAINED EIGHT MONTHS.

4. PROVISIONALS HAVE NOT RPT NOT ENJOYED MUCH SUCCESS SINCE CEASEFIRE ENDED. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL BOMBS AND SHOOTING INCIDENTS NORTHERN IRELAND BUT NO RPT NO MAJOR ATTACKS ON MILITARY OR POLICE. PROVISIONALS HAVE LOST THREE TERRORISTS KILLED DURING SAME PERIOD. THERE SOME APPREHENSION AMONG CITIZENRY HERE THAT PROVISIONALS FEEL FROM TACTICAL POINT VIEW THEY MUST ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS BEFORE RENEWING CEASEFIRE. SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ARMISTICE, MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELFAS00023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750025-0757
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750128/aaaaayfo.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELFAST 18
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SINN FEIN MEET AGAIN
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI, SINN FEIN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006